



City of Santa Barbara
Parks and Recreation Department

Memorandum

DATE: February 16, 2005

TO: Planning Commission
Park and Recreation Commission

FROM: Creeks Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Program
Citizens Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROPOSED VERONICA MEADOWS PROJECT

On February 9, 2005, the Creeks Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Program Citizens Advisory Committee (Creeks Committee) conducted a public meeting to conclude its discussion and make recommendations on the proposed Veronica Meadows project. In addition to receiving public comment from three individuals, the Creeks Committee undertook three hours of extensive discussion on the proposed project and took action on a series of recommendations regarding water quality, public access and creek resource issues. The purpose of this memorandum is to advise the Park and Recreation Commission and the Planning Commission of its recommendations. The Creeks Advisory Committee recommends that:

1. The proposed bridge over Arroyo Burro be eliminated from the residential project because of adverse impacts to the creek and interference with the restoration project planned by the Creeks Division (5/3, one abstention)
2. The setback on the main Arroyo Burro channel should be based on the "100-foot setback alternative (adjusted top of bank)" delineation in Figure 4-4 in the final EIR. The setback should not contain permanent structures or roads, but could include a pedestrian or bicycle path, and small constructed wetlands or bioswales that are appropriately designed for treatment of storm water runoff and sediment loading. (8/1)
3. The drainage throughout the project should be decentralized so that storm water runoff is directed to numerous percolations basins and bioswales throughout the site, and allowed to overland flow and percolate to the creek. In addition, pervious paving should be utilized for driveways and sidewalks, and the roadways as well, to the extent allowable by the Fire Department and Building Division. (9/0)

4. Given the City's efforts to daylight the Mesa Creek tributary, it is recommended that the tributary flowing from Campanil Hill through the project area remain open with an appropriate buffer. (8/0, one abstention)
5. The riparian buffer includes public access. (6/0) Three Committee members had left the meeting.

The Creeks Advisory Committee will also present its recommendations at the Park and Recreation Commission meeting on February 23, 2005 as well as at a future Planning Commission hearing on the project.

cc: Nancy L. Rapp, Acting Parks and Recreation Director
Paul Casey, Community Development Director
Jill E. Zachary, Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager
Jan Hubbell, Senior Planner
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